

## **Historic, Archive Document**

Do not assume content reflects current scientific knowledge, policies, or practices.



Ag 84Pro  
# 1013  
Copy 2



# CLEANING UPHOLSTERED FURNITURE

- Clean furniture lasts longer.
- Clean furniture helps keep bugs out of your house.
- Clean furniture stays nice looking longer.
- Clean furniture makes the home more attractive.

## CLEANING CLOTH-COVERED FURNITURE

### Getting Ready

Use a vacuum cleaner to remove as much loose dust and dirt as possible. (Fig. 1)

Brush the furniture with a whisk broom if you don't have a vacuum cleaner. (Fig. 2).

### Prepare Shampoo

Put  $\frac{1}{4}$  cup *mild*, preferably dry, detergent into a pan. Add 1 cup warm water.

Make lots of suds with an egg beater, or squeeze a sponge in the water several times. "Whip" the suds until they look like whipped cream.

Fill another pan with clean warm water for rinsing. Set the two pans on several thicknesses of newspaper so the floor won't get wet.

### Test for Fading

Try washing a small place on the back of your chair or sofa where it won't show. (Fig. 3) Rub with a light colored cloth to see if the color comes off. Let the small place you have washed, dry. Then look to see if it has shrunk. Has the cloth pulled together into wrinkles and gotten tighter? If everything looks all right, go ahead and shampoo your furniture. If the test spot fades, shrinks, or looks damaged in any way you have three choices:

1. If the change is very small, take a chance that shampooing will not ruin the covering.
2. Decide not to clean the piece.
3. Have it cleaned by a professional furni-

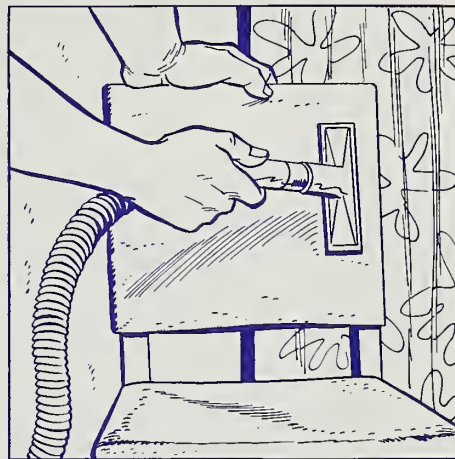


Fig. 1

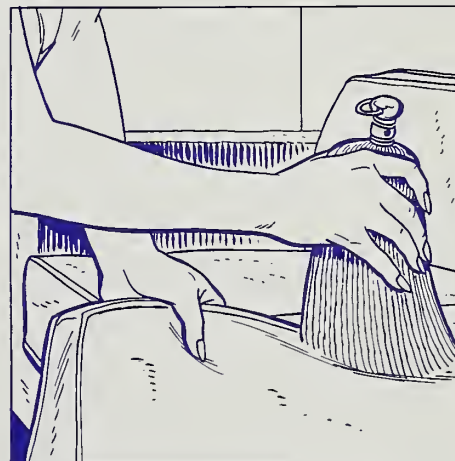


Fig. 2



Fig. 3

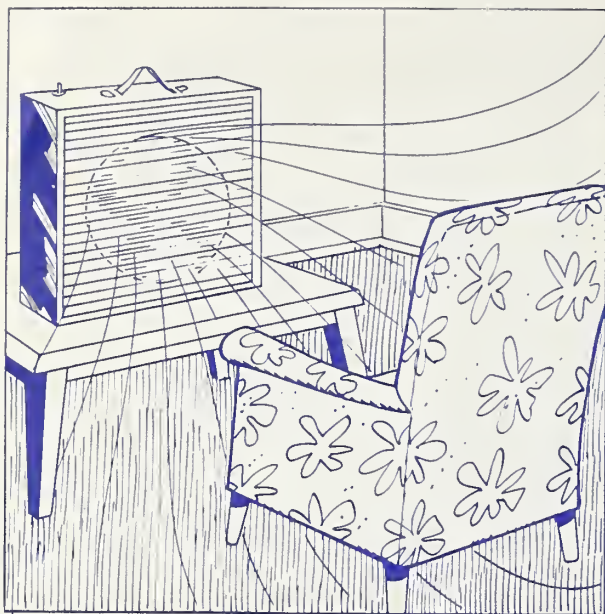


Fig. 4

ture cleaner. This might be the best choice if the furniture is new and if it is a very good piece, but it will cost more.

### Getting the Furniture Clean

Dip a soft bristle brush, sponge, or small cloth in the suds.

Rub the suds gently on a small part of the furniture. Clean an area about the size of a saucer at a time.

Wipe the area with a clean damp sponge or cloth. Rinse the sponge in clean water and wipe again. Do this several times. Be sure the rinse water is clean. Do not soak the upholstery.

Continue shampooing a small part at a time. As you move along, go back over the edges of the part you just finished cleaning. (This is called overlapping.) Overlapping helps prevent spotting when the upholstery dries.

### Do Not Get the Furniture Too Wet

For quick drying, open the windows if weather permits or set an electric fan nearby to keep the air moving. (Fig. 4) When the furniture is dry, brush it with a whisk broom or vacuum it again. This last step is important because the shampoo



Fig. 5

will bring out the dirt. A vacuum or broom will take it off.

## CLEANING PLASTIC UPHOLSTERY

### Getting Ready

Put 1 to 2 tablespoons mild detergent in a pan with 2 cups warm water.

Fill another pan with clean warm water for rinsing. Set the two pans on newspapers so the floor won't get wet.

### Getting Plastic Clean

Dip a sponge or cloth into the wash water. Squeeze it to get rid of excess water.

Wash a small part of the sofa, chair, or other plastic surface. Wipe the washed part with a clean damp sponge or cloth that has been dipped in rinse water. Rinse the sponge or cloth and wipe again. You must get all the suds off the furniture to avoid spotting.

Dry the cleaned part with a soft, clean cloth.

Keep on washing, rinsing, and drying a small part at a time until all the plastic is clean. Use a soft bristle brush to get rid of stubborn spots and stuck-on food. (Fig. 5)